



## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

**March 14, 2023**

### Severe Need Eligibility

Schools are eligible for the severe need breakfast reimbursement rates if 40 percent or more of National School Lunch Program (NSLP) lunches served to students at school during the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced price rate. Schools are eligible for the two cent differential reimbursement for lunches if 60 percent or more of the NSLP lunches served in the second preceding school year were at the free or reduced price rate.

Typically, data from School Year (SY) 2021-22 would be used to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast and the two cent differential reimbursements in SY 2023-24. However, many schools participated in the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) during SY 2021-22 and served all students free meals due to the impacts of COVID-19. While the SSO is part of the NSLP, a distinction must be made between the two programs for purposes of determining eligibility for severe need breakfast and the two cent differential reimbursement rates, since all meals are claimed at the free reimbursement rate under SSO. As a result, schools that utilized the waiver may not have complete data needed to determine eligibility for severe need breakfast rates and the two cent differential lunch rates in SY 2023-24.

On June 15, 2022, FNS published guidance for SYs 2022-23 and 2023-24. The memorandum stated that schools that did not operate the NSLP during SY 2021-22 must determine eligibility for severe need breakfast reimbursement and the two cent differential reimbursement for lunch in SY 2023-24 using the percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced price during SY 2022-23. For purposes of this guidance, because all meals are claimed at the free rate in SSO (during SY 2021-22), FNS considers schools that opted into the previously mentioned nationwide waiver to “not have operated the NSLP” during SY 2021-22 and therefore, these schools may not use SY 2021-22 data to establish eligibility in SY 2023-24.

### **Guidance for Eligibility Determinations for SY 2023-24**

#### ***Severe Need Breakfast Reimbursement***

- Schools that operated the NSLP during SY 2021-22 have second prior year data available to determine eligibility for severe need reimbursement for SY 2023-24. Therefore, these schools must use the percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced price during SY 2021-22 to determine eligibility for severe need reimbursement for SY 2023-24.
- For schools that did not operate the NSLP during SY 2021-22, they must use data from SY 2022-23 to establish eligibility for severe need reimbursement in SY 2023-24. We will use at least three claims from SY 2022-23 to determine eligibility.
- As a reminder, if a school is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as part of a group, the school's eligibility for the severe need breakfast reimbursement may not be determined by using the group's CEP claiming

percentage; the school's eligibility must be based on the school's individual identified student percentage (ISP). See Question 48 in SP54-2016 [Community Eligibility Provision: Guidance and Updated Q&As for additional information](#). Applying this guidance to SY 2023-24:

- If the CEP school operated the NSLP in SY 2021-22, state agencies must use the school's individual ISP from SY 2021-22 for the severe need determination in SY 2023-24.
- If the CEP school did not operate the NSLP during SY 2021-22, state agencies must use the school's individual ISP from SY 2022-23 for the severe need determination in SY 2023-24.

### ***Two Cent Differential Reimbursement for Lunch***

- Schools that operated the NSLP in all of their schools during SY 2021-22 have second prior year data available to determine eligibility for the two cent differential reimbursement for SY 2023-24. Therefore, for these schools, we will use the percentage of lunches served free or at the reduced price during SY 2021-22 to determine eligibility for the two cent differential reimbursement for SY 2023-24.
- For schools with one or more sites that did not operate the NSLP during SY 2021-22, state agencies must use data from SY 2022-23 to establish eligibility for the two cent differential in SY 2023-24. State agencies must use at least three claims from SY 2022-23 to determine eligibility.

### **DESE Staff Update**

*Welcome Theresa Dalby, Nutrition Program Specialist to our team. Theresa will be filling the **Southwest Region**.*

### **School Breakfast Week Thanks**

*A special thank you to school nutrition professionals and the entire school community for helping students start their day with the nutrition they need to learn and grow! [Send us](#) your photos of how your team celebrated.*

### **March is National Nutrition AND National Noodle Month**

**We wanted to share this amazing resource that provides many National Nutrition Month resources and how they directly relate with MyPlate.**



### ***Asian Pasta Salad Recipe***



Scan the QR Code for additional K-12 whole grain noodle recipes



## Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 23 ounces (677g)

Servings Per Container 100

Amount Per Serving

Calories 400

Calories from Fat 139.5

% Daily Value\*

Total Fat 15.5g 24%

Saturated Fat 3.7g 19%

Trans Fat 0g

Cholesterol 54mg 18%

Sodium 563mg 23%

Total Carbohydrate 48g 16%

Dietary Fiber 7.9g 32%

Sugars 2g

Protein 23.7g 47%

Vitamin A 100%

• Vitamin C 49%

Calcium 3%

• Iron 30%

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

Please note: for the purpose of the nutritional assessment, total sodium does not include salt added to the cooking water. When salt is listed "as needed" in the ingredient list, 1 tsp total is included in the analysis.

CONTAINS WHEAT INGREDIENTS. THIS PRODUCT IS MANUFACTURED ON EQUIPMENT THAT PROCESSES PRODUCTS CONTAINING EGGS.

## Meal Planning Resources for School Nutrition Professionals

- [Best Practices for Reducing Added Sugars at School Breakfast](#)
- [Offering Meats and Meat Alternates at School Breakfast](#) (available in English and Spanish)
- [Offering Smoothies as Part of Reimbursable School Meals](#) (available in English and Spanish)

## Farm to School Grant - Promoting Speciality Crops in Missouri

The Missouri Grown program is providing up to \$1,000 reimbursement to registered Missouri schools and Early Childcare Education Centers (ECE) to cover the purchase of specialty crops from a Missouri farmer between April 1, 2022 and November 30, 2023. This project aims to increase the consumption and knowledge of specialty crops in children and adults in schools/ECEs. Each school/ECE is required to complete one educational activity about specialty crop production. It is highly encouraged that this activity include the farmer, and can be either in-person or virtual. The specialty crops can be served before or after the educational lesson. The specialty crop can be for taste testing, educational activity, served in regular school meals and/or saved for later use.

The specialty crop can **NOT** be sent home with students.

Another component of this project is to encourage and build relationships between schools/ECEs and Missouri farmers. A school district and ECE can only receive the reimbursement 4 times (per semester) and funds are available on a first come, first served basis until funds are exhausted. Schools must collect paid itemized invoices or receipts from farmers with a proof of payment. See [invoice examples](#).

An Early Childcare Education Center must be found on the [Childcare Provider Search](#). The Missouri Department of Agriculture must receive all paperwork by November 30, 2023.

For additional resources and information or to complete the application, please visit the Missouri Department of Agriculture webpage.



### DESE FNS would like to give a shout out to Waynesville R-VI!

During their onsite Administrative Review it was found that they make their own bread from scratch. This includes their sub sandwich bread, rolls, and biscuits. While the nutrition program specialist was onsite, they served French Dip Sandwiches for lunch. Not only was the bread made from scratch, the LEA also carves their own meat and makes their au jus dipping sauce.



## REMINDERS

### Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides the option to offer free meals to all students in eligible high poverty Local Education Agencies (LEA) and schools without collecting household applications. Eligible LEAs and schools use a claiming percentage based on the number of identified students (primarily directly certified students) of at least 40%, multiplied by a factor of 1.6, to determine a free claiming percentage. The difference between the free claiming percentage and 100% determines the percentage of meals to claim in the paid category.

LEA's can find additional information on our website. [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#) LEA's will want to remember to conduct their Direct Match with their **April 1** data. It is noted that April 1 this year is on a Sunday but you can run the April 1 data on April 2 this year. If you need additional assistance with Direct Match, please see our website at (<https://dese.mo.gov/data-system-management/core-datamosis/training>) or to the DirectMatch Manual (<https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/directmatch-manual>).

Please note the following dates information is due to us.

- Direct Match- Use April 1 data
- ISP Support List Report- April 15
- CEP Policy Statement- June 30

- ISP Supporting Documentation- June 30
- ISP worksheets (per site)- June 30
- Web Application- June 30

Again all of this information and instructions on how to complete can be found on our website [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#) For additional information on CEP contact Kyle Heislen at 573-522-9849 or [kyle.heislen@dese.mo.gov](mailto:kyle.heislen@dese.mo.gov). For information on Direct Match contact Kelsey Kukharev at 573-526-5287 or [Kelsey.kukharev@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Kelsey.kukharev@dese.mo.gov)

## P-EBT

**Please submit any past due files by March 17th.**

**The first item** is your LEAs student absence template completed with the free or reduced-price eligible students that had a COVID-related absence during SY 21-22. Starting on September 1, 2021 students that would have normally received a free or reduced-price meal at school had it not been due to a COVID-related school closure or COVID-related absence are eligible for P-EBT benefits. If you have not yet completed this first item please follow these steps-

1. Watch the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer training video [here](#) and review the P-EBT FAQ [here](#).
2. Next, after watching the training video you must complete the survey [here](#) to obtain your LEA unique registration code.
3. Once you receive your LEA unique registration code and log-in steps you can download your unique LEA student absence template using the DESE P-EBT Servicenow Portal, <https://desepebtprod.servicenowservices.com/dese>.
4. Review the knowledge base how-to articles and videos within the portal and follow the instructions to upload the student absence template to the portal.

**The second item** is your LEAs student data for Summer 2022. THIS IS A SEPARATE SUBMISSION. Summer benefits are available for school children who **received free or reduce-price school meals during the month of May 2022 or the last month of the regular school year 21-22**. Because the covered summer period is an extension of the school year, this includes free or reduced-price eligible children who graduate at the end of the school year 21-22. Summer benefits are NOT tied to Summer School attendance. Paid students are NOT eligible for a summer benefit. School children who were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals under the NSLP and SBP in SY 21-22 and enrolled in school during the last month of the regular school year are eligible for P-EBT summer. If a child dropped out of school prior to the last month of the school year, that child would be ineligible for summer P-EBT benefits. If you have not yet completed this second item please follow these steps-

1. Carefully review the summer benefits information by watching the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer training video [here](#) and review the P-EBT FAQ [here](#).
2. Log-in to your Servicenow portal and download the student summer template.
3. Tip- You can copy and paste your free and reduced-price student names and information from your student absence template to your summer template and then complete remaining information.
4. Make sure you have all free and reduced-price students and information completed on the template, review and upload.

Review the [P-EBT website](#) for a list of common mistakes when completing the templates.



Our office notified schools about P-EBT on May 19, 2022. The most recent press release and notification can be found here <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/pebt-letter-schools>.

Please also share the letter to families and FAQ for parents and guardians <https://dese.mo.gov/media/pdf/p-ebt-faq-sy-2021-22-parentguardian>.

## USDA Foods Update

**USDA Commodity Foods Packet for SY23/24 submission timeframe has ended.** If you have not submitted your packet, please reach out immediately to [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov)

**Net Off Invoice Survey** –We need feedback on the Net Off Invoice entitlement option. A [brief survey](#) has been sent to LEA's authorized representatives. We want to hear from all districts whether or not you have done NOI processing. Surveys submission deadline is **March 15th**.

**March Bonus Entitlement** is still available and another offering with different products will be sent out this week by Gabriele Pacheco at Gold Star. An **April Bonus Entitlement** offering will be sent out near the end of March for districts that can use additional commodities.

- Brown Box Bonus Foods – reply to the Bonus email that is sent to your district's authorized representative. Contact us at [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov) for assistance.
- DOD Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Funds – email requests to [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov)
- Additional FFS and NOI pounds are available – contact your processor's representative [Processor/Broker Contact Information | Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(mo.gov\)](#)

### Fajita Chicken Strips

- April's delivery of Diced Chicken 100101 was cancelled by USDA. Therefore, we will substitute Chicken Fajita Strips 100117 in its place.
- Fair Share Chicken Fajita Strips 100117 – we received multiple bonus trucks of this product and are distributing it to all school districts participating in the Commodity Foods Program. It will be allocated based on the Total Lunches Served. If you do not have need for this product or storage is an issue, it may be offered to FACS classrooms, PTA groups or sports groups, childcare programs, offered to neighboring district or otherwise used as the district elects. DESE does not require documentation on how the product was used.

**Frozen Strawberry Cups** – There have been instances of frozen strawberry cups with lids that are not properly sealed. If you receive unsealed cups, provide pictures of the product, case information and the number of case impacted to [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov)

**Gold Star Account Reminder** - Please take a moment to review the commodity foods in your Gold Star "Live Inventory" and plan your March and April orders to receive all of the remaining brown box and Fee For Service items you have requested on your commodity packet for this school year. All items you have processed must be delivered in this school year. Commodity items remaining in your Gold Star account will be automatically shipped to your school if you have not selected them for delivery.

## Upcoming Summer Information

## Summer Workshops

It's that time of year and we, here at DESE - FNS, are beginning preparations for this year's summer workshops.

For summer 2023, we are working on something new and exciting. Over the year's our office has developed a multitude of trainings in key areas of our program. As always these [trainings](#) are available online for you to view as needed. In order to better serve those who operate the Child Nutrition Programs, the focus of our workshops this year will be to provide a networking opportunity for everyone.

What does this mean for workshops? We will still be conducting a general session to provide news and updates regarding changes in the program since last summer. For the remainder of the event, everyone will break into smaller groups and visit tables with topics to discuss during the allotted time frame. The objective of this new structure is to provide an opportunity to learn from your peers, gain new insight and ideas on how to operate your programs, and make new connections among other program operators. What we need from you now is some feedback – what topics would you like to see available during this workshop? Please complete the survey below to give us ideas!

With this new structure we will be looking for volunteers to host us at a couple different locations across the state. This survey will also serve as a way for us to identify those that are willing to volunteer their site as a hosting location. Please complete the survey to volunteer, or opt out of doing so.

To complete the survey, click here – [SURVEY](#).

We are very excited for this new approach and hope that you are too! We can't wait to see you!

## Thinking Ahead to Summer Meals

The Summer Food Service Program, Seamless Summer Option, and National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs are available to provide meals during the summer months.

**National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP)** are available for students enrolled in summer school.

**Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)** can be used to provide meals to all children ages 18 and under during summer months. In order to operate SSO or SFSP, the meal service site must be located in an area eligible location. This means the site is located at a school with at least 50% free and reduced enrollment, the site is in the attendance area of a school with at least 50% free and reduced enrollment, or the site qualifies by [census data](#).

- SSO is administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). SSO reimbursement rates are the same as [NSLP and SBP reimbursement rates](#).
- SFSP is administered by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). [SFSP reimbursement rates](#) are higher than SSO reimbursements.

See the [Summer Food Service Program vs. Seamless Summer Option comparison chart](#) for more information about differences between these programs.



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